

FEB 1952 51-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

25X1

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 24 December 1952

SUBJECT Economic Conditions in Northeast Korea

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF
INFO.

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

* Except as noted

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

Songjin Area

1. On 3 September 1952 food prices in Songjin (129-12, 40-40) (EA-1701) were as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement¹</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
White rice	1 small mal	2,500
Millet	1 small mal	1,800
Sorghum	1 small mal	1,700
Barley (polished)	1 small mal	1,600
Beans	1 small mal	1,300
Red Beans	1 small mal	1,800
Potatoes	1 small mal	300

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

25X1

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION COMNAVS:		#PACFLT#:	
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI		CINCPAC/PACAF#5AF#:	RYCOM#		

25X1

25X1

SECRET

-2-

Tanch'ŏn County Area

2. On 20 June 1952, the food rationing office for Tanch'ŏn County was in Pŏkeh'ŏn-ni (123-54, 40-28) (DV-9279). The rationing office had 12 warehouses. In late June 1952 each warehouse held at least 2,000 bags of cereal. Some of this cereal had been imported from China and some had been collected from local farmers as county taxes. The daily ration issued to government employees was as follows: North Korean army and police, 5 hop; North Korean Labor Party members and other government employees, 4 hop; families of all the foregoing, 2.3 hop per person.

Wŏnsan Area

3. In May 1952 the North Korean government was still using money that was issued before the war. Chinese currency brought into North Korea by the Chinese Communist forces was being used secretly by merchants who were trading with Manchuria. This Chinese money was being forwarded from Wŏnsan to Antung by way of P'yŏngyang and Sinŭiju. In May 1952 the exchange rate had not been fixed by the North Korean government. However, the exchange rate, based on 10,000 JMP, which was being used by traders, was as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u>North Korean Won</u>
Wŏnsan	290
P'yŏngyang	400
Sinŭiju	800
Antung	1,200

4. On 28 May 1952, most of the people of Wŏnsan had moved out of the city to escape the bombings. There were about 3,000 people living in the valley at Sinp'ung-ni (127-25, 39-09) (CU-6334). Some people were living in the Chungch'ong-ni (127-26, 39-08) (CU-6532) area. Those who had remained in Wŏnsan found conditions very difficult, since there was little food. When asked for food by North Korean army personnel they had to refuse, since they themselves were reduced to eating grass and pine needles. Only about 50 pounds of rice were for sale at any one time. The price was between 5,000 and 5,600 won per small mal, and only Communist Party members and senior military officers had the money to buy it. This situation was in contrast to conditions during the United Nations occupation when laborers received rations of rice and other foods. In late May 1952, the people were being forced to work for the North Korean army without compensation.

Anbyŏn Area

5. In early August 1952 many of the civilians in the Anbyŏn (127-31, 39-03) (CU-7223) area were near starvation. Few people could afford to buy grain. Many laborers were unemployed. To protect the people from United Nations bombings, North Korean authorities forced them to leave their homes and move to cave shelters on the outskirts of the villages. Only 50 families were allowed to remain in any one village.
6. In early August 1952 food and commodity prices in Anbyŏn were as follows:

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

-3-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Rice	1 mal (20 liters) ²	10,000
Imported rice	20 liters ²	9,000
Soy beans	20 liters	7,400
Sorghum	20 liters	7,000
Wheat flour	20 liters	7,000
Potatoes	20 liters	2,000
Salt	20 liters	3,400
Cotton cloth	1 yard	500
Coarse cotton cloth	5 yards	2,500 to 3,000
Rubber shoes (women's)	1 pair	1,200
Rubber shoes (men's)	1 pair	1,800
Sneakers	1 pair	3,000
Toilet soap		150
Laundry soap		250
Cigarettes	20	250
Gold	3.75 grams	8,000 to 9,000

Kosong Area

7. From April to August 1952 the food situation in the Kosong area was extremely critical. People were gathering edible weeds for food. From early April to the end of July approximately 500 people starved to death in this area.
8. In August 1952 workers were being paid 500 won per day for light labor and 600 to 700 won for heavy labor. On 20 August, food and commodity prices in this area were as follows:³

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Rice	10 liters ⁴	8,000
Imported rice	10 liters	7,000
Soy beans	10 liters	5,000
Millet	10 liters	7,000
Sorghum	10 liters	6,000
Salt	10 liters	4,000

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

-4-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Price in North Korean Won</u>
Potatoes	10 liters	4,000
Rubber shoes (women's)	1 pair	1,000
Rubber shoes (men's)	1 pair	1,600
Matches	1 package	60

25X1 1. Comment. The western equivalents of the Korean units of measurement used in this report are as follows: 1 hop, .3 pint or .18 liter; small mal, 1/4 bushel or a little under 15 pounds of rice; large mal, 1/2 bushel or a little under 30 pounds of rice.

25X1 2. Comment. A large mal of rice is equal to 18 liters.

25X1 3.

25X1 4. Comment. A small mal of rice is equal to 9 liters.

SECRET